

## The Faith

Community  
LUTHERAN ELCA

December 06 - January 07

## Communicator



## Monthly Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue No 11

**The View from  
the Coffee Cup**By Pastor Bruce  
Welander

Page 3

**Dec/Jan Wedding  
Anniversary's**

Page 5

**Library Notes**

Page 8

**Musings from a Seminarian**

Page 11

**Outreach News**

Page 6

**Youth News**

Page 9

**We Are Advent People**

By Janelle Olson

Page 12

**FCLC Christian  
Education**

Page 4-5

**Birthdays &  
Attention Ladies!!**

Page 7

**All About Admin**

Page 10

**Sky Ranch**

Page 13

9775 Hwy. 66, Longmont, CO 80504 - Services 8 AM & 11 AM Sun, 5:30 PM Sat - [www.FaithCommunityLutheran.org](http://www.FaithCommunityLutheran.org) - (303) 776-8771

## Pastor's Perspective...



by Pastor Dan Hansen

*"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Hebrews 1:24 &amp; 25

**1) On the "ministry" of encouragement...**

What a blessing it is for me to serve a congregation that is so encouraging! I've probably never worked so hard in my life as this past year, with so many new families, with Cindy's breast cancer treatments, and with various staff transitions. But in the midst of it, there have been so many who have said, "How are YOU doing!?" Furthermore, it's been so encouraging to see so many in the congregation pulling together so beautifully showing an inspiring team effort. Truly you have demonstrated what it means to be the "Body of Christ." Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**2) On our ministry this fall...** We have so much to be thankful for this year. I'm sure you've noticed how packed we've been on Sunday mornings. Our average worship attendance for 2006 has been 503 compared to 482 at this point last year. Furthermore, we give thanks that our giving has gone up proportionately; as you can see in the bulletin we've received \$517,000 in our general offerings YTD compared to \$475,000 YTD last year. We took a leap of faith in approving this budget, and clearly God has shown Himself to be faithful in stirring up the generosity of this congregation. Thanks be to God! But most of all, it's just exciting to see good ministry happening as people are growing in the faith and reaching out to one another in times of need.

### 3) On our building expansion...

Again, we want to give our Building Committee a big pat on the back for their outstanding work as we approach the end of our first year in our new space. Special thanks to Bob Danos and Bob Thoman, our Building Chairs, and Nanette Goings, Audrey Audley, Bob Kaiser, Mike Cousins, Jeff Bonds, Dave Koehler, Roger Olsen, and Carl Schaal as committee members.

As I've mentioned before, as much as I had hoped that we might have been able to proceed with this "Phase II" while we were under construction five years ago with our new sanctuary, I have really come to believe that this is another example of God having a better plan. This expansion is really quite a bit more exciting than our original vision because we've been able to plan in more detail regarding our future needs (high school youth room, computer lab, library, reading room, Wed. confirmation communion & choir rehearsal space, etc.) So, we have another example of "God working for good in all things..."

### 4) On our 2007 planning...

Our annual **Budget Hearing** will be held at **9:15 on Sunday, December 10th** in the Fellowship Hall. We need your input regarding our staff needs and regarding our "first-fruits" percentage for this next year. I've been mentioning in newsletters in recent months that we might want to explore the possibility of a lay minister ("Pastoral Associate?") that would have some theological credentials, plus some of the managerial business experience that we need. As you can imagine, increasingly I find myself managing staff; addressing building policies, concerns and schedules; and falling behind on pastoral care and visitation of potential members and preparation for preaching. As you know, good staff usually ends up paying for itself. You'll find copies of this **proposed "Pastoral Associate"** lay minister position in the narthex, and soon on our website.

Final approval for the 2007 budget will be solicited at our **Annual Meeting at 9:15 on Sunday, January 7th** in the sanctuary (again followed by Sunday school). We'd love to have you attend these meetings and give us your feedback regarding our ministry plans. *(And we hope that Pastor Bruce doesn't step out for coffee and miss the whole meeting like last year.....ha!)*

### 5) On our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services...

Because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, we'll be celebrating Advent 4 at our 8:15 & 11:00 morning services that day, therefore our Sat. Service on 12/23 might be an attractive option for those who would prefer to not drive twice to the church on 12/24. But then we'll be celebrating the birth of the Christ-child at 3:30, 5:30, and 7:30 with Candlelight Communion services on Christmas Eve that same day.

How exciting it will be to have our fourth Christmas in our new sanctuary! In contrast to 2004 (where most folks came to the 4:00 service!), we had a nice even distribution of attendance at our 3 services last year; 280, 319, 348. Although the Bronco's will once again be playing at 2:15, we are hopeful for another fairly even distribution of worship attendance. Christmas is a great time for evangelism -- please invite your friends & neighbors. We are looking forward to the joy of worshipping the Christ-child once again!

Your partner in ministry,  
**Pastor Dan**





by Pastor Bruce Welander



As you read this, it is probably a week or so after Thanksgiving, even though that day may seem long behind us. This will be the last edition of our newsletter until 2007, which means that the end of another year is coming quickly. So, in the spirit of thankfulness for a fast but fine year, let me share with you briefly some of the good things I can recall from 2006... together with brief previews of the year to come.

First, what a blessing the new addition to our building has been! Not a week goes by that I am not deeply thankful for how our great new north wing has enhanced the ministries of this congregation. I personally use both the Sunrise and Sunset rooms for classes every week. What a gift!

Also, as I think back to the earlier days of 2006, my mind goes back to last spring's Lenten season, with gratitude for very solid worship and participation. You may recall that our theme was Cross Words, focused on Christ's Seven Words from the Cross, a theme that we illustrated with key words that week by week were attached to small wooden crosses made by Marvin Heimbichner. This year our Wednesday services will continue with more visual symbols on those Crosses. We call it "CrossPeace," and we'll say much more about it in our next newsletter, in early February.

Also high on my gratitude list of happenings at Faith Community this year is the continued interest shown in adult Christian education, which has long been a passion of mine. In my Sunday classes, we finally finished our study of the Book of Revelation and then had a great "Summer of Gifts," as we called it, with lots of special sessions, but also time to look at a timely study of issues that were raised by The DaVinci Code and other current works. Then, this fall, I have been extremely pleased by the interest shown in my course on the history of the Christian

Church as the work of the Holy Spirit. I look forward to continuing that story through the first couple of months in 2007, to be followed by a thorough study of what Lutherans believe and why.

One more thing, on a very personal level. I have greatly enjoyed playing my alto saxophone with Chuck Cullian and others at Ziggi's coffee house on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, since last April. The support from people at Faith Community has been fantastic! I want to thank all of you who have come to hear us play.... including Pastor Dan, who has been there several times. You are all a joy and inspiration.

In short, thanks so much to all of the people of Faith Community for a wonderful year. Of course it has had its sadness and deaths as well. Still, it is such a privilege to serve with the great people of this congregation. I am deeply grateful.

Finally, in preparation for Christmas, I want to share some striking words from one of the greatest figures in Christian history, St. Augustine, who wrote this about the heart of Christmas, God's Incarnation in Christ:

*Our Lord came down from life to suffer death;  
the Bread came down, to hunger;  
the Way came down, on the way to weariness;  
the Fount came down, to thirst.  
He so loved us that, for our sake,  
He was made man in time, although through Him all  
times were made.  
He was made man, who made man.  
He was created of a mother whom He created.  
He was carried by hands that He formed.  
He cried in the manger in wordless infancy,  
He the Word, without whom all human eloquence  
is mute.*

May God give you the deepest of Christmas blessings,  
Pastor Bruce Welander





# FCLC Christian Education News



## Christmas Show and Tell!

*Sunday, December 10, 9:45-10:45 am*

**Mom and Dad**, come and see what your children have been learning in Sunday School this month! Our theme, **Christmas through Joseph's Eyes**, will begin through a short reenactment of the Christmas story in the sanctuary. Children will then lead their parents through the Sunday School workshops downstairs—learning more about God's Greatest Gift through music and Boomwhackers, edible Christmas nativities and small art projects created by the children.

## Women's Book Tea

If you agree that there's nothing like reading a good book, sipping a cup of tea, and spending the morning with friends, then join us for FCLC's second annual. . . **WOMEN'S BOOK TEA!** Order your book by December 17. Read the book during the month of January. Sip on tea while discussing what you have read at the BOOK TEA on Friday, February 2, 10-11:30 am. We will be reading *This Heavy Silence* by Nicole Mazzarella. Cost of the book is \$10. Contact Nanette to order your book NOW! ([nanette@faithcommunitylutheran.org](mailto:nanette@faithcommunitylutheran.org))

## Lenten Devotional

It's only December, but now is the time to volunteer to write a devotion! We need writers for the 46 devotions to be included in FCLC's own Lenten Devotional. The deadline for completed devotions will be February 1. As in the past, scripture passages and writing guidelines are provided. Please contact Nanette [nanette@faithcommunitylutheran.org](mailto:nanette@faithcommunitylutheran.org) **by January 1**, if you are interested.



## Men's Monthly Book Discussion Group

Do you like to read? Are you interested in reading more, but seem to be stuck in a rut and always read the same type of book? **A Men's Monthly Book Discussion Group** will be forming in January. Only one book per month will be read. Cost per book will be \$10. Please contact Bob Goings [RNgoinings@msn.com](mailto:RNgoinings@msn.com) if you would like to learn more about it.

## Fellowship Corner

We know that the holidays are a very busy time, so make it easier on yourself & join us for dinner on Wednesday nights. Once the holidays are over we still have many families coming over for dinner on Wednesdays. We need volunteers to help with those dinners. If you have the time to give and love to cook for a crowd, please contact either Shannon Holstine or Kaydene Hubert; we will get you all the details.

Be sure to watch the newsletters and bulletins for some Fellowship "happenings" coming up in the new year!!

With a new year on its way, we always welcome some new ideas. Mark your calendars to join the Fellowship Committee the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

Fellowship Co-Chairs,  
Kaydene Hubert and Shannon Holstine



## Christian Education Dates to Remember in December and January

Check the online calendar link at [www.faithcommunitylutheran.org](http://www.faithcommunitylutheran.org) for up to date information and weekly Bible study opportunities!

**December 2** 10:00-11:00 am  
**December 3** 6:00-7:30 pm  
**December 10** 9:45-10:45 am  
**December 17** NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
**December 17** 6:00-7:30 pm  
**December 18** 7:00-8:30 pm  
**December 20** NO CONFIRMATION  
**December 24** NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
**December 27** NO CONFIRMATION  
**December 31** NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**January 3** 6:00-7:15 pm  
**January 7**  
**January 7** 9:45-10:45 am  
**January 7** 6:00-7:30 pm  
**January 21** 6:00-7:30 pm  
**January 22** 7:00-8:30 pm  
**January 28** 9:00-11:00 am  
**January 28** 6:00-7:30 pm  
**February 2** 10:00-11:30 am  
**February 4** 9:45-10:45 am

**Sunday School Workshop Leaders' Training**  
**P.O.T.s Bible Study**  
**Sunday School Christmas Show and Tell!**

**Great Dates Bible Study**  
**Weavers of the Cloth**



**Confirmation resumes**  
**Christian Ed. THEME: Blessed are the Peacemakers**  
**Sunday School resumes**  
**P.O.T.s Bible Study**  
**Great Dates Bible Study**  
**Weavers of the Cloth**  
**Blood Pressure Checks**  
**New Member Class #1**  
**Women's Book Tea**  
**New Member Class #2 (Luncheon at 12:15 pm)**



## December & January Wedding Anniversaries

December 1  
 Jeff & Teresa Stamp  
 December 10  
 Rob & Kayla Smith  
 December 11  
 Mike & Lisa Smith  
 December 15  
 Perry & Anita Willson  
 December 17  
 Irving & Almina Ringdahl  
 December 18  
 Harlan & Janelle Olson  
 December 20  
 Robert & Wilberta Fagler  
 December 22  
 Tom & Marilee Gruenberger

December 2  
 Larry & Debbie Polsdofer  
 December 27  
 Jim & Judy Conradson  
 Scott & Sue Bachman  
 Mike & Terri Cogdill  
 December 28  
 Cliff & Trisha Stewart  
 December 29  
 Steve & Carole Freeman  
 Bob & Claire Danos  
 December 31  
 Leif & Heidi Johnson  
 Dave Mathiesen &  
 Brenda Shelton-Mathiesen

January 1  
 Mike & Rhea Hoops  
 Dan & Peggy Gaither  
 January 5  
 Terry & Laurel  
 January 9  
 Larry & Diane Vinaske  
 January 19  
 Greg & Leah Rinard  
 January 23  
 Mike & Becky Major  
 January 28  
 Peter & Debbie Raemer  
 Steve & Denise Lauerman



# Outreach News



## Holiday Basket Program

The holidays are here and FCLC is again supporting the St. Vrain Community's Holiday Basket Program. This is a great program that provides a holiday ham, grocery certificates, toys, and bicycles for low-income families in our area. The "Giving Tree", located in the Narthex, has "Gift Angels" on it for the congregation to take and purchase toys and/or clothing for kids. Grocery certificates can also be purchased as a part of this (see box in the main office). Please be sure to place your *unwrapped* toys/clothes donations under the tree by Friday, December 15. All the collected items will be distributed to families on Wednesday, December 20 at Boulder County Fairgrounds. If you're interested in helping with this distribution (Dec 15-20), please contact the Volunteer Connection at 303.444.4904. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Tway ([nancytway@yahoo.com](mailto:nancytway@yahoo.com)).

## O.U.R. Center

Donated food items & baby products (diapers & formula) are always needed at the local O.U.R. Center and are much appreciated. Please continue to drop off your items in the grocery cart in the Narthex as these are collected on a weekly basis.

Also, we will be serving lunch to 100-200 people at the O.U.R. Center on the following Saturdays. *Don't forget to mark your 2007 calendars!* Volunteers (6-8 adults) are needed to setup, cook, serve, and clean up the meal from 10am until 2pm. If you're interested in helping with this project, please contact Tami Musfeldt ([tami.m@comcast.net](mailto:tami.m@comcast.net))

### **Upcoming lunch serving dates (Saturday):**

-- 2006: December 2

-- 2007: March 3, June 23, October 6

## Habitat for Humanity

FCLC Outreach supports the local Habitat for Humanity by providing lunch to the workers on the following dates...mark your 2007 calendars! Volunteers are needed to make the food (hearty soup, salad, bread, & dessert) as well as serve the meal from 11:15am until 1pm. In order to make this project a success, we need a lot of help (~20 volunteers to pre-make the food and ~3-5 people to serve it). If you're able to help with this project, please contact Veta Hartman ([hartmanv@comcast.net](mailto:hartmanv@comcast.net))

### **Upcoming lunch serving dates for 2007:**

-- Wednesday: January 17

-- Saturdays: March 31, June 30, August 18, & November 17

## Undie Sunday in January!

To be brief... **"Undie Sunday" is coming up on Sunday, January 21.** Be sure to catch those post-holiday sales and buy some underwear (all ages) to donate!

**\*\* Don't forget that the Outreach Committee will be having a meeting on Monday, December 4 at 6:30-8pm at the church!**

Part of the meeting we will be discussing FCLC Outreach giving and budget line items. If you have a charity or mission that you think FCLC should partner with, please email the information to Tami Musfeldt ([tami.m@comcast.net](mailto:tami.m@comcast.net)) by Friday, December 1.

## Grace Lutheran Church – New Orleans, LA

FCLC has partnered with Grace Lutheran Church in New Orleans to help support their rebuilding efforts after the 2005 Hurricane Katrina disaster. More information on the church and its progress can be found at: [www.gracenola.com](http://www.gracenola.com). The FCLC Christmas offering will be designated to this church. Also, FCLC Outreach is organizing a work crew to go there in early March (**March 2-9**, tentative) to help them out with various tasks. An organizational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30pm at the church. Please contact Pat Sharp ([m6sharp@aol.com](mailto:m6sharp@aol.com)) if you're interested in this project.



# Dec/Jan Birthdays!



December 1  
Charles Herring  
Shauna Bladt  
December 2  
Betsy Byrne  
Curt Musfeldt  
Aaron Praska  
December 3  
Judy Conradson  
Tony Hassa  
Greg Vaughn  
Casey Criswell  
Ben Gomez  
Steve Hansen  
Tom Hansen  
December 4  
Dave Koehler  
December 5  
Shannon Stewart  
Colton Gruszczynski  
December 6  
Dee Lien  
Jeff Bonds  
December 7  
Katlin Kovets  
Kara Kovets  
December 8  
Dave Enders  
Pam Lind  
December 9  
Lucille Mullen  
Judy Heller  
Sue McCormick  
Anita Willson  
Doug Inskeep  
Ethan Bowers  
December 10  
Donna Wormke  
Brian Greene  
December 11  
Jeff Bladt  
Monica Peeples  
Travis Hunting  
December 13  
Gena Steele

December 14  
Diane Elwood  
Nathan Wait  
December 15  
Joyce Heimbichner  
Sharon Kaiser  
Dianna Buckett  
December 16  
Ron Parsons  
Marcus Cardenas  
Breanna Unger  
December 17  
Marci Rothe  
Sandor Demosthenes  
Ryan Platt  
December 18  
Paula Moore  
Lauren Ward  
December 20  
Brad Davis  
December 21  
Carole Freeman  
Chris Smith  
December 24  
Veta Hartman  
Horst Hennig  
December 26  
Len Rozek  
Martha Van Gent  
Valerie Jones  
Hilary Smallwood  
December 28  
Brody Rothe  
December 29  
Curt Lewis  
December 30  
Joan Schnell  
December 31  
James Mower  
Colton Vece  
January 1  
Brad Steele  
Leslie Raymond  
Lisa Smith  
Shannon Lovell  
Corey Bruns

January 3  
Emily Matthias  
Roger Rankin  
Gordy Wallace  
Tom Kramer  
January 4  
Pat Sharp  
Chuck Carlson  
Nicholas Boggess  
January 5  
Andy Mason  
January 6  
Bob Alm  
Mary Smith  
January 7  
Karla Irvin  
Jeff Stamp  
Ryge Hubert  
January 8  
Holly Lehnert  
Matthew Smith  
January 9  
Phyllis Holst  
Kylee Mendez  
January 10  
Gary Adams  
Jake Carstens  
Michael Chaney  
January 11  
Justin Bachman  
Nathan Schemmel  
Jason Irvin  
Madelyn Thoman  
January 13  
Mary Konicek  
January 14  
Miguel Mendez  
Angie McDermid  
January 15  
Denise Lauerman  
Amy Magyar  
Elizabeth Simpson  
Travis Parsons  
January 16  
Nick Lehnert  
Scott Musser  
Mark Johnson  
January 17  
Kaydene Hubert  
Christian Ney

January 18  
Wilberta Fagler  
Pam Nelson  
David Brown  
Zach Myers  
January 19  
Don Lee  
Ruth Lerum  
Grace Demmel  
January 20  
Bill Raymond  
Claire Danos  
Nash Harper  
January 21  
Tony Schaff  
January 22  
Mike Marshall  
Kathy Droege  
Marissa Ciccone  
January 23  
Joel Schell  
Peggy Criswell  
Bob Goings  
January 24  
Bob Knapp  
Amanda Platt  
January 25  
Evelyn Weston  
Denise Parsons  
Caitlyn Thomas  
January 26  
McKenna Inskeep  
January 27  
Rob Baltrum  
January 28  
Mike Smith  
Amanda Endres  
Reagan Courtemanche  
January 29  
Jason Olson  
January 30  
Chris Desizlets  
Ty Tatham  
Carly Hopp  
Johnny Mercer  
Nicholas Knutson  
January 31  
Jack Peeples

## Attention Ladies!!!

**We want YOU to come on our Women's weekend getaway to Summit County,**

January **5th - 7th!** While this is "next year", it really is only 35 days away. So please put this down on your calendars and plan to join us!

**Where do we stay?** We have 4 women in the congregation who are offering their condos to us. One is at Keystone; the other 3 are in Silverthorne (near the I-70 exit for Silverthorne / Dillon / Keystone).

**What do we DO up there?**

**Friday:** We tend to form carpools to get to the mountains and go out for dinner with groups that arrive up there about the same time. Some people leave Friday a.m. after their kids get to school and those folks usually like to hit the outlet stores.

A couple of us try to get in a weekday ski day. After dinner, we all try to gather at one condo location and socialize.

**Saturday:** Boy, there are lot's of things to do: Ski, cross country ski, snow shoe, sled, shop & dine, go to a movie, read a book, work on your scrap books, or just sit in the hot tub!

**Saturday night:** We all gather at one condo for a group dinner.

**Sunday:** Can do the same things as Saturday, go to church at Lord of the Mountains and/or leave mid-day to beat the traffic in the late afternoon.

It really is a fun, relaxing weekend and a great escape! Please email [sallymeier@yahoo.com](mailto:sallymeier@yahoo.com) and let me know if you can join us. If you can only come for a day, that's fine, too!

Thanks,  
Sally Meier







## Library Notes: Not Just on Sunday!



FCLC library is open and waiting for you any time the church is open. Bible study, biographies, inspirational books, LOTS of children's books from board books that tiny tots can handle to series adventure and light-hearted books for older kids, videos ... the list of the resources in the library goes on and on. But a Sunday morning filled with worship, Sunday school classes, and fellowship doesn't always allow time to browse the library offerings. When you stop by the church, take time to turn on a light in the library rooms, let the kids choose books or videos at their leisure, and pull up a chair to the 'New Book' truck near the circulation desk and sample a few books.

Checking out a book is easy: Sign your name and phone number on the card in the book pocket and drop it in the box on the desk. Books circulate for one month; videos and DVD's can be kept for a week. The library operates on the honor system. Help the librarians by making certain that a child's signature (they love to do it themselves!) on the card includes a last name. Can't find the book you want? Your young reader wants bk. 4 in a series? Check with Lois Ward and she'll let you know when it is returned to the library.

**READER OF THE MONTH?** Old Owlhooter thinks **Jeff Riemenschneider** deserves a wide-eyed 'Whoo-oo' for the books he has suggested on Christian life, especially for fathers and sons, and Christian parenting. Oh, yes, 'Hooter reminds us that Jeff reads them, too, just about as fast as they arrive in the library. Thanks, Jeff.



Recommendations are eagerly welcomed. Use the 'A Good Book for FCLC Library' slips you will spot in the narthex and on the circulation desk in the library to contribute a suggestion

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS READING:

**Family story time:** Browse the Arch book rack also for many Bible Christmas stories.

**Annika's secret wish**, by Beverly Lewis. A little Swedish girl, in the midst of an ancient Christmas tradition, learns the importance of giving and the power of Christ's sacrificial love.

**Children around the world celebrate Christmas!** By Susan Osborn. If you lived in ....

**Mary's first Christmas**, by Walter Wangerin. A fine storyteller presents the Christmas narratives of the Bible as Mary tells her five-year-old son Jesus the story of His birth.

**One Wintry Night**, by Ruth Graham. A picture book set in a snowbound mountain cabin retells the Christmas story, beginning with creation and closing with the resurrection.

**Shepherds abiding; The Mitford snowmen; Esther's gift** – Three little books capture the spirit of Christmas in Jan Karon's well-loved Mitford series.

**The Santero's miracle**, by Rudolfo Anaya. With Christmas only days away, it snows so heavily that Jacob the wood carver and his visiting grandson are afraid the roads won't be cleared for the family to come from the city, and that a sick neighbor will not get the help he needs.

*To read and perhaps to share:*

**The Christmas Surprise**, by Ruth Moore. In 1755, during the French and Indian War, Kate, nursing a burning hatred for the Indians who killed her parents and kidnapped her young brother, goes to live with the Moravian community in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and is horrified by their calm disregard of a threatened Indian raid as they prepare for a special Christmas.

**Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas** and **Stories behind the great traditions of Christmas**, by Ace Collins. Share the history of Christmas songs and traditions.

**Watch for the light: readings for Advent and Christmas.** Thoughtful selections to enrich your reading in this special season.





# YOUTH and HOUSEHOLD MINISTRY NEWS

*Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Wonderful Winter to you!*



## December 3—12:30 pm 2nd Annual Mentor / Mentee Bowling Tournament

It is time again to get out those old bowling shirts and bowling balls and get ready to have a great time! Sven Raemer and Terry Schemmel got their names on the FCLC Bowling trophy last year—who will it be this year? Mr. Schemmel is going for 2 years in a row, but he will have some stiff competition this year! I hear many teams are already practicing...

## December 16, 4-8 PM

### Middle and Senior High Christmas Caroling Adventure

It doesn't matter if you can sing or not, it's all about the fun and brightening the days of those in two of Longmont's nursing homes! We will gather at FCLC at 4 PM, sing a bit at two residences, and then head out for a party at a MYSTERY LOCATION!!! This is going to be a holly-jolly time, so put your bells on and sign up with Kris or Dale Nehls ASAP so we know we can count on you!

## January 12-14

### RMSMSYG (Rocky Mountain Synod Middle School Youth Gathering)

Did you forget to sign up for this awesome weekend in Colorado Springs with 900 of your best Lutheran friends? If you did and you still want to go, see Kris ASAP to sign up.

## January 21 9:45-10:45

### Free A Child is coming to FCLC for a special presentation!

*Free A Child* is a grassroots organization based out of Boulder that is fighting against human trafficking, child sexual slavery, and teen homelessness/prostitution in America. Sarabeth Donovan from *Free A Child* will be our guest speaker during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45) to share with us the tragic reality of these issues. Come hear about what YOU can do to join the fight.

## RMSSHYG (Rocky Mountain Synod Senior High Youth Gathering) - this past November 17-19

What a great time we had!!! Eight youth and 2 adults headed up to Estes Park for the annual Sr. High Youth Gathering. Highlights of the weekend involved the FCLC Volleyball match, CLIC groups that finally got talking, prank phone calls, finally getting to know some of the folks in our own group, and getting less than 5 hours of sleep a night. The theme "Whatever, Wherever, Whenever, Forever" was highlighted as we experienced Christ in our midst in all 4 of these ways throughout the weekend. A special thanks to Allen Clauson, our adult male chaperone, who took great care of everyone all weekend long!



# All about Administration

From your Director of Business Administration, Susan Moller



## About....Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend the Budget Hearing on December 10 at 9:15 am. The purpose of this hearing is to get the congregation's input on the 2007 budget proposal. Then, on January 7, 2007, the congregation will vote on the budget at the Annual Meeting. We also vote for new council chairpersons at that time. I hope everyone will plan to attend these meetings.

## About....Update on "Estimate of Giving" cards

There have been 117 "Estimate of Giving" cards returned as of November 17, 2006. The amount pledged so far for the general fund is \$362,442 and for the new building fund, the pledges total \$120,622.

## About....First-Fruits Outreach

As most of you are aware, in 2006 we are giving away 20% of our offerings as First-Fruits to ministries outside of our church. And in addition to this, our special offerings from Lent, Good Friday, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve are also given away to such projects as Hurricane Katrina Relief, the OUR center, and Grace Lutheran in New Orleans. In 2004, the amount of these special offerings was \$6,020; in 2005 it was \$10,305; and so far in 2006, we gave our Lenten offerings away in the amount of \$3,479.

## About....Our Landscape "Adopt-a-Tree" Project

Our "adoption" project is now complete. Thanks to everyone who "Adopted a tree or shrub." As of November 17, \$7,087 was raised.

## About....FCLC's Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund Board is still accepting applications for funds through December 31, 2006. The applications are available in the church office. Distributions shall be made with particular emphasis on enhancing and extending the life and mission of the congregation, which may include support for: domestic and foreign missions; scholarships; professional staff for special seminars; community projects; and building expansion or improvements.

Blessings,  
Susan  
Church office #: 303-776-8771  
[susan@faithcommunitylutheran.org](mailto:susan@faithcommunitylutheran.org)

## A SAFETY NOTE REMINDER

from Bob Thoman, Director of Property



People who are traveling west have the right-of-way to make a left-hand turn onto Spencer St. If you enter the church driveway from the west, you must yield right-of-way to the people who are making a left-hand turn onto Spencer Street. There is nothing we can do to change this situation until CDOT reconfigures the highway.



## MUSINGS FROM A SEMINARIAN

I trust each of you and your families had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I have many things to be thankful for not the least of which is this wonderful group to whom this is addressed. Since my last writing in late October (copied below because I think there was a problem with my email and it was never really sent), I received a "package" from one of you. In my first "musing," I said seminary was really "Read Until Your Eyes Fall Out" (RUYEFO). One of you, who will remain anonymous until I can thank them in person, sent me Gummy Eyeballs! Four of them – as replacements just in case the originals did fall out...the quantity (four) is probably because I wear glasses and as you know the old expression for folks that wear glasses: "four eyes"! Anyway, I shared this event with several other seminarians and the overwhelming response was: "What a wonderful gift!" The first time I heard it I was somewhat taken aback...then they explained why they said it: "You are truly blessed to have a support community praying for you and interested in your progress...that is truly a blessing." I will probably never know how much your thoughts and prayers have assisted me on my journey. Thank you!

This will be the last "musing" of this seminarian from Gettysburg. While I am not finished with my studies, the semester is coming to a close. The last day of class is 15 December (two weeks and three days from today). That day is important for two reasons: the obvious one (last day of the semester) and it is the day before Diane arrives at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. December 16th will be a very joyous day since Diane and I have only talked, sent snail mail, and sent emails since I left Colorado in late August. We will meander westward across the US visiting family and friends during Diane's Christmas break. Because it is winter, weather will certainly pace and prescribe our route and where we stop. However, you can bet there we will stop in Columbus...seeing grandkids is an absolute must!

Classes are "winding down" and instead of RUYEFO - it is now "Type Until Your Fingers Drop Off (TUYFDO). Each class has something that must be written – but – that is to be expected...after all this is seminary! I have all of the papers planned out. I am not yet on the Critical Path. I have been close to Critical Path several times but I have made sure there is time to "take a breath." My Teaching Parish is a delight – this is where I spend each Sunday. I presented the sermon on 19 November; I had another reason to be thankful because it went well. I am doing a teaching in Sunday school this coming Sunday so if you aren't busy between 10:00 and 11:00 AM EST...prayers will be greatly appreciated!

This has been an adventure... one I am grateful to have experienced and currently experiencing even as I write this musing. I have discovered many things about myself and my calling. As the opportunity presents itself over the course of the next six months (Yes – more musings will follow since graduation in May is a real possibility. No, I am not returning to Gettysburg for a Spring Semester. I will finish my studies in Colorado). I wish you all "Glad tidings" in this season of Advent as we (the Church) prepare anew to celebrate Christ's coming to earth. I trust this finds you in God's love and wrapped in the love of those you find dear.

Blessings – and – I will see you soon!

Ed Broestl



## Finances

FCLC FINANCES As of 11/30/06:

General Offering YTD	\$ 560,135
Budget YTD	\$ 600,577
Expenses YTD	\$ (567,446)
New Building Giving YTD	\$ 150,595





## WE ARE ADVENT PEOPLE

*The Christmas celebration was established in the 4th century, but Advent did not develop until at least several decades later. The word Advent comes from a Latin word for "coming," and this coming has been interpreted in various ways in church history. Today it has three meanings: past, present, and future.*

**Past:** Advent refers to Christ coming as the baby at Bethlehem.

**Present:** Advent refers to Christ repeatedly coming to us in Word and Sacraments and in the fellowship of the Church.

**Future:** Advent is a time of preparation for Christ coming again at the end of time – the Second Coming.

The Advent Wreath is the most recognizable Advent symbol. As a new candle is lit each week, it reminds us that Jesus is "the true light which enlightens everyone" – past, present, and future. Over the years the individual candles have represented different themes of the Advent Season, but always speak to the past, present, and future focus of Advent.

### **Advent 1:** Prophets' Candle.

*Comfort my people. Speak tenderly...* Isaiah 40:1-2.

Faith's fire was struck within the hearts of God's prophets. The Spirit compelled them to speak. The Spirit bids us listen, whispering into our darkness, "Dare to hope."

### **Advent 2:** Bethlehem Candle.

*... from you shall come forth One who is to rule...* Micah 5:2.

This tiny town had yielded one great ruler, David. Yet, the prophet's words beg the question: "Can lightening strike twice?" The answer may shock you. "Believe... and Prepare!"

### **Advent 3:** Shepherds' Candle.

*... watching over their flocks by night, when suddenly...* Luke 2:8-9.

A shepherd heard the promise and believed. His name was Abraham. His family numbers as the stars. It seems the listener is not as significant as the Promise Maker. "God speaks to you!"

### **Advent 4:** Angels' Candle.

*... I bring good tidings of great joy for all people.* Luke 2:10.

The joy of the angels could not be contained within the confines of heaven! It spilled out onto the hills of Bethlehem! God's good will is for all people... even shepherds... EVEN YOU!

I found this Advent message in a newsletter; I wanted to share it with the Faith Community Lutheran families as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel... Rejoice! Rejoice!*

**In Jesus, always,  
-Janelle**



## FCLC CONTACTS

### **EMAIL:**

Faith Community: [fclc@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:fclc@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Pastor Dan Hansen: [dan@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:dan@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Pastor Bruce Welander: [bruce@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:bruce@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Administrative Assistant (Janelle Olson) [janelle@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:janelle@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Director of Worship Teams (Diane Sell) [diane@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:diane@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Director of Choirs (Dawn Hajdas) [dawn@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:dawn@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Director of Christian Education (Nanette Goings) [Nanette@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:Nanette@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Director of High School Youth & Family (Kris Baltrum) [kris@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:kris@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Director of Youth & Family Outreach (Cindy Hansen) [cindy@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:cindy@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Director of Business Administration (Susan Moller) [sue@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:sue@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Nursery Coordinator (Mandy Wormke) [mandy@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:mandy@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Director of Property & Maintenance (Bob Thoman) [thomanonline@netzero.net](mailto:thomanonline@netzero.net)

Newsletter Editor: (Kirk Olson) [Kirk@FaithCommunityLutheran.org](mailto:Kirk@FaithCommunityLutheran.org)

Newsletter Editor: (Adam Gostenik) [agostenik@comcast.net](mailto:agostenik@comcast.net)





## What Do I Get My Child for Christmas?

Just when you are starting to think, "What do I get my kid for Christmas?" I have an answer for you! How about a fun summer week at Sky Ranch?

***"What is Sky Ranch anyway?????" you ask.***

Sky Ranch, at 9200 feet, is a picturesque camp located just north of Rocky Mountain National Park. It is operated by congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Its programs and facilities are open to all.

While Sky Ranch has many programs for all ages and for families, FCLC is coordinating the week of July 22-27, 2007, for youth who have completed grades 4 thru 8. They will enjoy a week at camp with their friends or "soon-to-be friends" from church. Two programs are offered.

Here are brief descriptions from the Sky Ranch website: <http://www.fortnet.org/skyranch/programs.php>

### ***1. Homesteaders, for children who have completed 4th – 6th grades:***

#### **What activities does my child get to do?**

The early remains of the old homestead can still be found at Sky Ranch. You can enjoy a program designed for upper elementary children that includes pioneer arts (such as panning for gold), stories, campfires, games, hikes to Beaver Falls and plenty of hearty fun. Live in a warm cabin and enjoy an overnight at Beaver Flats Mining Camp. You'll love the variety of our meals in our dining hall and around the chuck wagon. Evening star gazing under snow-capped peaks will make your time in the mountains breathtaking. It's a great week for curious youngsters eager to explore the outdoors and meet new friends!

### ***2. Mountaineers, for children who have completed 6th – 8th grades:***

#### **What activities does my child get to do?**

A week camping at Sky Ranch includes daily Bible study, hiking, worship, challenge course activities, group games, arts and crafts, nature study and music. Enjoy a meal around the chuckwagon. Special activities are used to foster trust, self-confidence and cooperation among campers. Campers are housed in bunk cabins overlooking Beaver Creek. Bring your friends for the best week of your summer!

Pastor Dan joins our campers for the week. One of the highlights each year has been a gathering of all the campers at his campsite to make lots of yummy s'mores around his campfire!

If you wish to enroll your youth, please contact Sally Meier at [sallyjmeier@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyjmeier@yahoo.com) or call 303-938-8680. The 20-06 prices are in effect until December 6th. If you sign up now, we can get your youth involved in some fundraisers to help offset the cost!





## Mission Verse

God's Spirit is on me:  
He chose me to preach the  
Message of Good News to the  
poor, Sent me to announce  
pardon of prisoners and  
recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set the burdened and  
battered free, to announce,  
"This is God's year to act!"

*Luke 4:18-19*

## Our Vision

*In each of us burns a flame  
so we gather in faith and  
hope to reach out in love.*



## Our Core Values

**To "Reach Out in Love"  
as a church that is:**

- \* Bible-centered
- \* Prayer-centered
- \* Worship-centered with blended  
styles of music
- \* Kid-Friendly
- \* Visitor-Friendly
- \* A Model of the Priesthood  
of Believers
- \* A Model of "First Fruits Giving"  
(to various outreach projects)

Faith Community Lutheran Church, ELCA

Volume 6, Issue No 11



9775 Ute Hwy 66  
Longmont, CO 80504-9736

Church Phone: (303) 776-8771  
Fax: (303) 772-1417



All God's People  
Everytown, USA

Return  
Service  
Requested

Nonprofit  
US Postage PAID  
Longmont, CO  
Permit 300

